The INCOSE UK "SEASON REPORT"

As a nation the UK depends for its competitiveness and prosperity on its ability to add value through systems integration. Yet many high profile projects in both the public and private sectors fail through lack of the holistic through-life perspective that Systems Engineering provides.

The "SEASON (Systems Engineering Annual State of the Nation) REPORT" aims to establish a national baseline of the UK's Systems Engineering capability. It provides an evidence base to inform decision makers in Government, Industry and Academia so that they can act effectively to improve the UK's national Systems Engineering capability. It was prepared by a working group of the UK Chapter of INCOSE, with the support of its corporate members, the UK Advisory Board (UKAB). It will be updated periodically, and augmented by topical reports.

The "SEASON REPORT" was prepared by engaging corporate and individual members of INCOSE UK and national and international experts in Systems Engineering, drawing on a wide range of sources both public and unpublished. It comes to **five key conclusions**, and makes some additional **key observations.**

In summary, there is room for improvement in the way we in the UK develop our Systems Engineering knowledge, capability and capacity and convert these into business outcomes - and there is a strong imperative to do so to keep our economy competitive. Systems Engineering is integrative and cross-disciplinary in nature: there is a critical need for more systems awareness across the whole engineering, project management and commercial community, and a more consistent professional identity for systems engineers and systems-trained professionals.

The report recommends **three axes of development** for the UK's systems engineering community to address the conclusions:

1. Improve the Academic profile of Systems Engineering and Systems Thinking by setting out an agreed, intellectually rigorous foundation for the discipline.
2. Seek to establish a Systems Knowledge Transfer Network with as wide as possible stakeholder engagement to get better visibility of what's going on in and around Systems Engineering.
3. Establish a Professionalisation agenda to get better visibility of and provide better support for peoples' skills and development.

An electronic copy of the report is available now as a member benefit to members of INCOSE UK, and will be released publicly in the summer. A hard copy will be provided shortly to other key organization and individuals. The SEASON Report will be controlled, maintained and developed as an evidence base by a dedicated working group within INCOSE UK. Hillary Sillitto, Andrew Daw and David Oxenham are the initial members of this working group and are now defining their ToRs.

As we went to print in January 2009, the near-collapse of the world's financial system and the agenda set by the opening days of the Obama presidency confirmed our evidence and reinforced our conclusions. The "real economy" needs systems skills as never before to develop viable systems and services which create real, enduring and environmentally sustainable value for the economy.

www.incoseonline.org.uk